

Non-recurring Adoption Expenses provides reimbursement for children who have an approved agreement. The adoption worker and adoptive parent(s) complete the DHS-4815, Non-recurring Adoption Expenses Claim form, and submit it to the Adoption Subsidy Office. The claim form must be submitted within two years from the final order of adoption date. Reimbursement checks are mailed directly to adoptive parents or their designated third party.

Adoption Medical Subsidy provides reimbursement for treatment of approved conditions that are listed on the medical subsidy agreement. Payments may be made after the child's medical subsidy agreement is signed and the child is placed for adoption.

Medical Subsidy:

- Services must be pre-approved by the adoption subsidy office.
- Requires all other private and public sources of payment (private health insurance, Medicaid, Children's Special Health Care Services, etc.) to be used before payment from the medical subsidy program will be authorized.
- May not cover 100 percent of costs.
- Does not pay for routine medical care.
- Does not pay for services prior to the effective date of the agreement.

MORE INFORMATION

Federal and State Laws

Michigan has both federal (Title IV-E) and state-funded adoption subsidy programs. The Title IV-E program provides funding for Title IV-E adoption support subsidy and non-recurring adoption expenses. The program is admin-

istered under Public Law 96-272, the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980. The state-funded adoption support subsidy and the adoption medical subsidy programs are administered under Michigan laws MCL 400.115 f-m.

Appeals

Adoptive parents may appeal DHS decisions regarding adoption subsidy eligibility or amounts by requesting an administrative hearing. A family files an appeal by writing to the adoption subsidy office. The family may choose to have an attorney or other person represent them at a hearing.

Federal Tax Credit

Families adopting a child from Michigan foster care may be eligible for a federal tax credit. Additional information is available from the Internal Revenue Service (www.irs.gov).

Note: This brochure contains general information only. For more information, prospective adoptive parents should direct questions first to their adoption worker and/or the adoption supervisor. Specific adoption subsidy policies are available to the public at www.michigan.gov/dhs. The adoption subsidy office is located at:

Michigan Department of Human Services
Adoption Subsidy Office
235 S. Grand, Suite 415
P.O. Box 30037
Lansing, MI 48909



Department of Human Services (DHS) will not discriminate against any individual or group because of race, religion, age, national origin, color, height, weight, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, political beliefs or disability. If you need help with reading, writing, hearing, etc., under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you are invited to make your needs known to a DHS office in your area.

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Previous edition obsolete.

MICHIGAN'S ADOPTION SUBSIDY PROGRAMS

Information for Prospective Adoptive Parents



**State of Michigan
Department of Human Services
Adoption Services Division**

INTRODUCTION

Michigan has three adoption subsidy programs to assist families who adopt eligible foster children up to age 18. The programs are funded by both federal and state funds and provide financial assistance including:

- **Adoption Support Subsidy** - a monthly payment to assist with the expenses of raising an eligible child. Medicaid is also available for many children who receive support subsidy.
- **Non-recurring Adoption Expenses** - reimbursement to adoptive parents of up to \$2,000 for specific expenses of adopting an eligible child.
- **Adoption Medical Subsidy** - a reimbursement of approved expenses related to physical, mental, or emotional conditions that existed, or the cause of which existed, prior to adoption.

Based on each individual child's circumstances, one or more of these subsidy benefits may be available to support his/her adoption. The adoptive family's income does not affect subsidy program eligibility or rates.

ELIGIBILITY

Adoption Support Subsidy and Non-recurring Adoption Expenses

In order to qualify for these programs, a child must meet the state's eligibility criteria. The requirements include:

1. The court has terminated parental rights.
2. The child has a special factor or condition that qualifies as a special need for assistance. In Michigan, the factors include children:
 - Age 3 and older.

- With documented higher medical or mental health needs.
 - When eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI).
 - Being adopted by relatives or with siblings.
3. A reasonable effort has been made to place the child without adoption assistance.¹
 4. For state-funded support subsidy only, the child must be under the jurisdiction of a Michigan court due to a finding of abuse or neglect.

¹ See P.L. 96-272 Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980 for federal Title IV-E funding requirements.

Adoption Medical Subsidy

In order to qualify for adoption medical subsidy, a child must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- The child was in Michigan foster care at the time the petition for adoption was filed.
- The child has a physical, mental or emotional condition that existed, or the cause of which existed, before the adoption.

APPLICATION PROCESS

All prospective adoptive parents of children in the state's care have an opportunity to request adoption subsidy. Eligibility for all subsidy programs is determined by the Adoption Subsidy Office at the DHS in Lansing. When a prospective adoptive parent requests subsidy, his/her adoption worker completes and submits the application(s) on behalf of the child.

Time Frames

- **Adoption Support Subsidy/Non-recurring Adoption Expenses** - In Michigan, the application, eligibility determination and signing of the agreement takes place before the petition for adoption is filed. If this does not occur, a

child's eligibility **must** be completed and a negotiated agreement signed by the adoptive parent(s) and the DHS designee before the final order of adoption is signed by the court.

- **Adoption Medical Subsidy** can be applied for and approved either before or after the adoption. This program allows for additional conditions to be added until age 18 years, if the condition, or cause of the condition, existed before the adoption petition was filed.

After a complete application has been submitted, the Adoption Subsidy Office will make a determination of eligibility and send a response to the adoption worker. The response will include a legal agreement for all approved programs, or denial and appeal information for the prospective adoptive parent(s).

SUBSIDY PAYMENTS

The Adoption Support Subsidy maximum monthly rate is based on the foster care rate the child received, or would have received, in a family foster home prior to adoption. The ongoing monthly subsidy payments are negotiated between adoptive parents and a department representative, up to the maximum monthly rate. The ongoing monthly payment is agreed to by the adoptive parent(s) and based on the circumstances of the adoptive family and the needs of the child being adopted.

If an adoptive parent agrees to an amount lower than the maximum monthly rate, he/she may, at any time, renegotiate the ongoing monthly payment up to the maximum set at the time of the adoption.